

CONGRATULATING THE CHEROKEE TRAIL COUGARS

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Cherokee Trail Cougars varsity softball team on their thrilling 5A state championship win over the Broomfield Eagles.

The Cougars won the first ever state softball championship thanks, in part, to senior Chloe Knapp. Her walk off grand slam, the day before in the semi-finals, put them in the championship game, and her 8th inning homerun was the only run scored in the championship game.

I would also like to congratulate seniors Emily Bell, Skylar Hagens, Sonoma Olson and Audrey Pickett, who helped propel the Cougars to a 20–3 season record. Special thanks to Coach Caley Mitchell and the teachers of Cherokee Trail high school who made this year's success possible. Regardless of any team's inherent talent and ability, no team can achieve success without the support of the community around them.

This was a hard fought battle between two great schools. I am so proud of the Cherokee Trail Cougars varsity softball team for being a positive role model for other high schools in the Sixth District of Colorado. Congratulations on a stellar season.

HONORING JOHN AND TERRI BALLETTTO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John and Terri Balletto, who were honored by the Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation Ag Trust in Santa Rosa, California on November 5th for their decades of service to our winegrowing and farming community.

John and Terri have dedicated their lives to our agricultural community in Sonoma County and have been strong supporters of Santa Rosa Junior College. John stepped in as the College Ag Trust chair following Warren Dutton's passing in 2001. He then helped raise over \$1 million to build the Dutton Pavilion in honor of Warren's immense contributions to the College and our community. Terri has also made significant contributions to Santa Rosa Junior College, offering her support and running Public Relations for many successful Ag Trust events.

In addition to their work with the college, the Balletto family has been active in our agricultural community. John served two terms as the Sonoma County Winegrape Commission Chair, and he will be joining the California Association of Winegrape Growers Board in 2017. Terri and John's family vineyard, which they run with their two daughters, produces winegrapes on over 600 acres. Their leadership in the agricultural community has been recognized numerous times, winning them a variety of honors ranging from Sonoma County Winegrape Commission's Excellence in Viti-

culture to Sonoma County Farm Bureau's Farm Family of the Year.

Amid their many important responsibilities, Terri and John still find the time to give back to our community. Terri is the Director, Secretary, and Executive Board member for the 4–H Foundation of Sonoma County, and she serves on the Sonoma County Fair Foundation committee. Additionally, John and Terri have both served as directors and presidents of the Sonoma County Harvest Fair.

Mr. Speaker, John and Terri Balletto have enriched Sonoma County through their unmatched commitment to serving Santa Rosa Junior College and our agricultural community's needs. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM MURRAY, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant, attorney, and friend, William Johnathan Murray, Jr. Sadly, William Murray passed away on Saturday, October 22, 2016. Funeral services were held on Sunday, October 30, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Americus, Georgia.

William Murray, Jr. was born on March 23, 1946 in Americus, Georgia. A lifelong follower of Christ, Bill was baptized at twelve years old at First Baptist Church of Americus. More recently, he worshipped at Calvary Episcopal Church of Americus, St. John's Anglican Church of Americus, and Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Georgia.

From a young age, Bill was eager to serve others. During his time at Americus High School, he was Student Council Vice President his junior year and Student Council President his senior year. In 1968, he graduated from the University of Georgia with a bachelor's degree in history. He then attended the University of Georgia School of Law and graduated in 1971. During his time at UGA, he was a member of Blue Key, an honor society recognizing men and women of great character who have achieved distinction for service and leadership. He also was a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society and served in leadership positions for various student organizations. During law school, he was on the Moot Court Team and won the Best Oralist award in the 1970 Law Day Competition.

In addition to his numerous contributions at UGA, he established New College Press while still in college. New College Press published three books, one of which was written by Bill himself and was entitled "A Boy's Dream." Later on, more books by various authors were published by William Murray Publishers.

Following the completion of his law degree, Bill returned home to Americus to begin his law career and his public service. He served on the Americus City Council from 1975–1977 and was elected as a state representative in the Georgia General Assembly from 1977–1981. During this time, he introduced legislation that promoted manufacturing in Sumter

County, officially designated the Andersonville Trail, and provided funding for University of Georgia projects. Bill also served as City Attorney for Plains, Georgia.

In 1980, he married the love of his life, Sandra Merritt Deal. They had two children, Brian and Summer. Bill and Sandra worked together in his law practice and served their clients all over the state of Georgia. They later founded the Sumter Free Press, a newspaper relaying news, editorials, and local history to the residents of Americus.

George Washington Carver once said, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." We are all so blessed that William Murray passed this way and during his life's journey did so much for so many for so long. He leaves behind a great legacy in public service to the countless residents of Sumter County whose lives he touched and brightened. His impression on this earth extends beyond himself to the very wellbeing of Sumter County, and for it he will be remembered by the community for time to come.

Mr. Murray is survived by his daughter, Jessica Summer Murray and two grandsons, Noah Johnathan Deal and William Brian Deal of Americus, as well as his sister, Gena Murray Moorhead, and many other cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in honoring William Murray, Jr. for his dedicated service to the people of Sumter County and the state of Georgia. We extend our deepest sympathies to William Murray's family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time and pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

JAELYNN WALLS AWARDED DAVIDSON FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jaelynn Walls of Pearland, TX for earning a Davidson Fellows Scholarship.

The Davidson Institute of Talent Development awarded Jaelynn a \$25,000 Davidson Fellows Scholarship for her project, Humanity On-Screen: Engendering Positive Self-Perception and Political Activism in Persons with Marginalized Identities. Only 20 students across the country earned this prestigious scholarship. Jaelynn's project was inspired by her desire to present characters of marginalized racial or cultural backgrounds painted in a positive light due to her inability to identify with protagonists in literature growing up.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Jaelynn Walls for earning a Davidson Fellows Scholarship. We are extremely proud of her and wish her luck in her future studies.